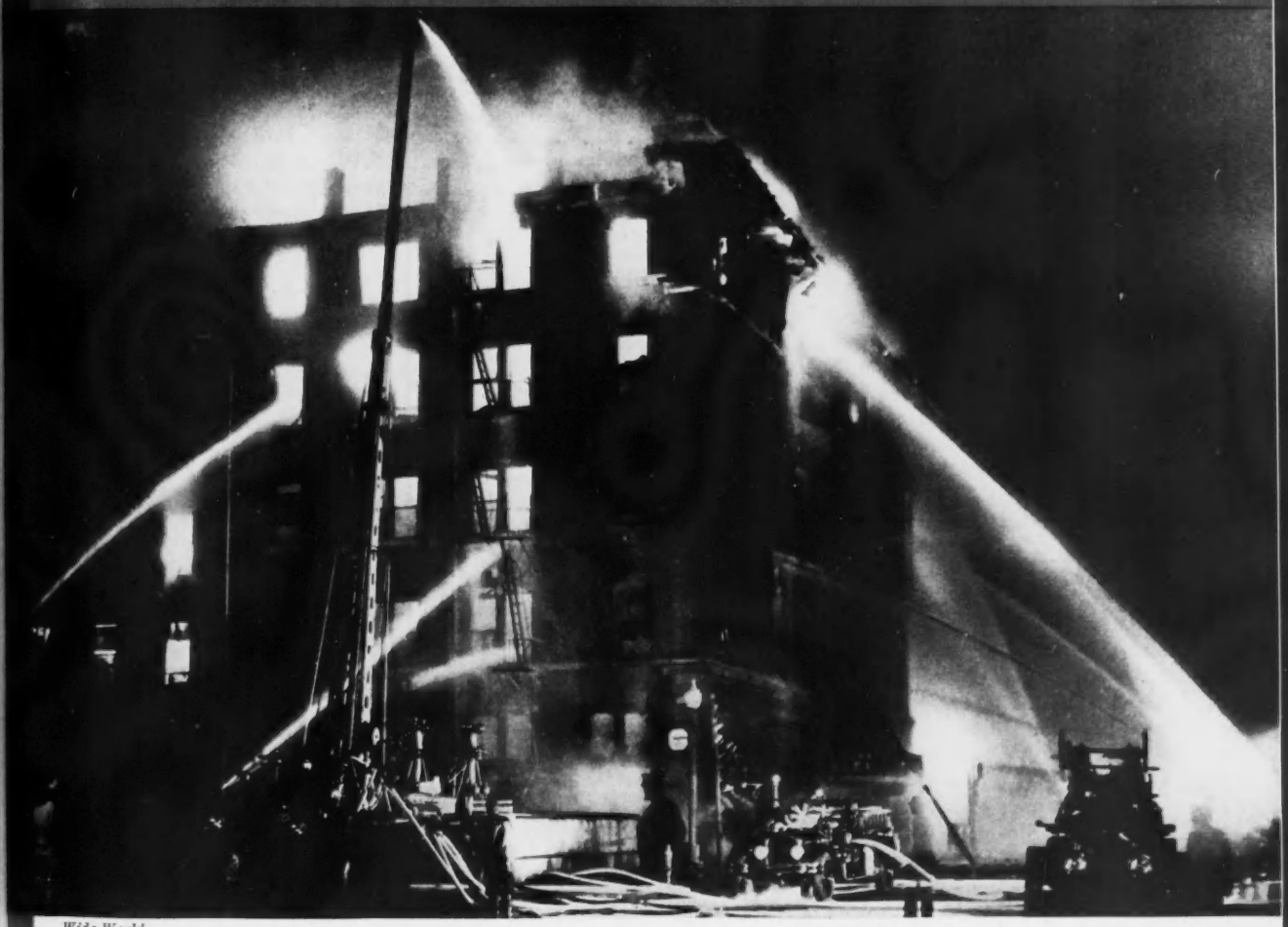
Volunteer Firemen

Professional Journal of the Volunteer Firemen's Section



Wide World

Thirty-five persons lost their lives in the worst hotel fire tragedy in nearly forty years when an early morning holocaust destroyed the Terminal Hotel in Atlanta, Ga., May 16, 1938. When firemen arrived flames had spread up the open elevator shaft and were pouring from upper windows.

Atlanta Hotel Holocaust

Also in this issue—Ohio Volunteers at Air Disaster—Lightning Does Strike Twice—Making a Shoulder Hose Load—Let's Look at the Records

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THE greatest volunteer firemen's convention, tournament and parade of all time is scheduled to be held in connection with the New York World's Fair, August 15-18, 1939. Volunteer fire departments from all parts of the world are invited to attend. The great tournament is to be a part of the 67th annual convention of the Firemen's Association of the State of New York. The one quarter million volunteer firemen of the Empire State are the enthusiastic hosts. Contests will include motor pumper, ladder and hose evolutions. A monster parade will feature the history of fire apparatus from the earliest hand tubs to the latest pumpers. The large amphitheatre on the lake has been assigned as the firemen's convention headquarters.

Thousands of volunteer fire department members will want to take in the New York World's Fair. There is no better way than to take part in the great firemen's tournament. Any volunteer fire department interested in the tournament should write to John J. McConnell, Chairman, World's Fair Committee, Firemen's Assn. of the State of New York, 40-14 Murray St., Flushing, N. Y.

THERE is a well known advertisement which reads, "What a whale of a difference a few cents make." This is especially true in the fire service where both life and property depend upon the efficient operation of the fire department. During the days of forced economy some fire department officials have drifted into the policy of neglecting small items of equipment so as to make a good impression on the powers that be by returning small amounts from their department's appropriation to the municipal treasury. In the long run such a policy is not in the best interests of the community which has made the money available for fire protection purposes. It is also not in the best interests of the fire officials themselves who are responsible to the community for the efficient operation of their department and the protection of the citizens.

When money has been appropriated for fire protection it should be used for that purpose. It is a bad policy to give the impression that the fire department can operate on a restricted budget. Let the budget department be the treasury watchdog. When the fire department has a few spare dollars it should be used to improve equipment. Buy some new extinguishers and pump tanks, replace old fashioned nozzles, get some new 1½-inch hose. You probably need some gas masks, salvage covers, siamese and wye connections, new fire alarm boxes and equipment. If you have all these things, improve your department library. Ten dollars spent for an N.F.P.A. membership will provide a lot of material for the library as well as give every fireman up-to-date fire fighting information.

A volunteer fire department must keep up its equipment to render the most efficient service and to maintain the interest of its members. Let the municipal departments not connected with public safety turn back their money if they must, but in fire protection work the best is none too good and false economy may prove disastrous.

The handsome black and gold uniform sleeve insignia reproduced in miniature below will be awarded to every volunteer fireman completing the 1938 training course in Maryland according to Bob Criswell, State Fire Service Instructor.

LAST month 10 departments with 215 men joined the Volunteer Firemen's Section for the first time. In addition 11 fire departments with 243 men renewed membership bringing the total for the Section to 586 departments and 13,095 firemen. If your department does not have regular business meetings during the summer don't let your membership renewals lapse as you will want to see the interesting features planned for Volunteer Firemen and other N.F.P.A. publications this summer. The following departments are newly enrolled:

England Fire Department, England, Arkansas.
Climax Molybdenum Company, Climax, Colorado.
Delray Beach Fire Department, Delray Beach, Florida.
Beecher Volunteer Fire Department, Beecher, Illinois.
Shelby Fire Department, Shelby, North Carolina.
Ashley Volunteer Fire Department, Ashley, Ohio.
Fairfield Volunteer Fire Department, Fairfield, Ohio.
Buck Hill Volunteer Fire Company, Buck Hill Falls, Pennsylvania.
West Lake Hose Company, Erie County, Pennsylvania.
Lufkin Volunteer Fire Department, Lufkin, Texas.

Atlanta Hotel Holocaust

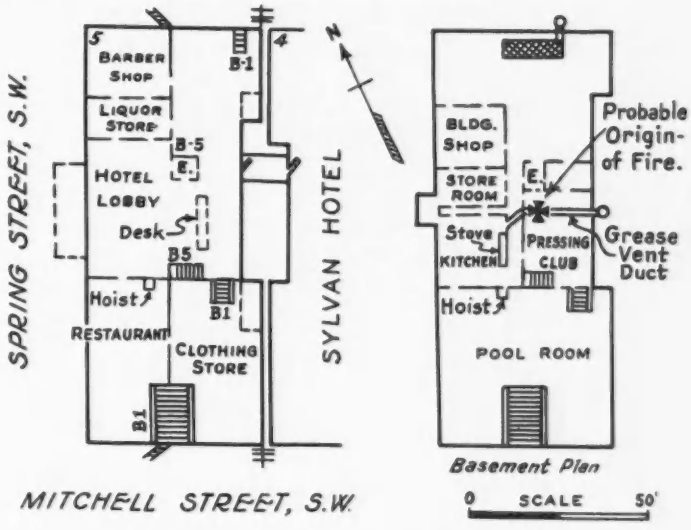
Thirty-Five Dead in Greatest Hotel Fire Tragedy in Forty Years—Final Result of Ignoring Building Code Years Ago

THE worst hotel fire tragedy in the United States since the burning of the Windsor Hotel in New York City nearly 40 years ago took place in Atlanta, Ga., on May 16, 1938. An early morning fire swept the Terminal Hotel with a loss of 35 of its 65 occupants. The Terminal Hotel proved to be such a complete firetrap that prompt response of a strong city fire department was unable to avert the great tragedy.

The Southeastern Underwriters Association (Member N.F.P.A.) has made a comprehensive report on this fire from which the following story is written.

The entire interior of the five story hotel building was of combustible construction. Almost before it was discovered, open stair and elevator shafts had carried the fire into the upper floors. Flames issuing from unprotected windows made the open fire escapes at each end of the building almost useless as exits.

According to the city building inspector, the Atlanta building code did not permit a combustible hotel five stories high at the time the hotel was built. The city council, however, passed a special ordinance to allow the construction. This ordinance proved to be a death warrant which was to be served 30 years later on more than half of the occupants of the building. No attempt was made to compensate for the added fire hazard by the installation of much needed automatic sprinklers or fire alarm equipment.

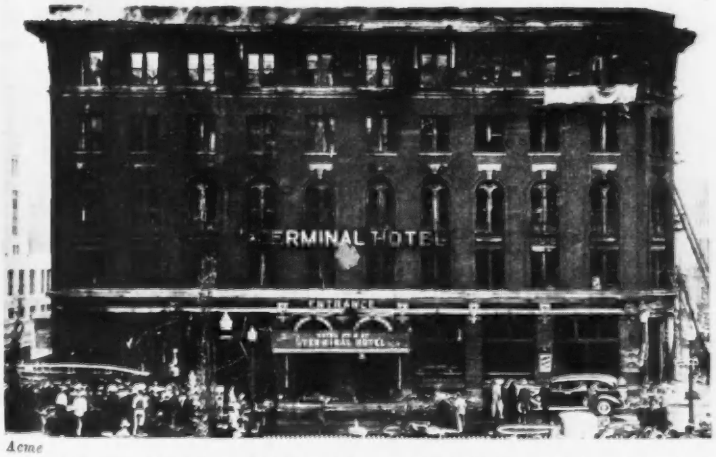


The fire started in the basement from an unknown cause shortly after 3 A.M. Smoke was first seen coming from the ceiling of the hallway outside of the basement kitchen by an employee of the hotel restaurant. It is thought that the fire may have started in a pressing club room and ignited grease in a vent flue which passed through the room from the kitchen range.

Two restaurant employees were in the basement and four hotel and restaurant employees were on the first floor when the fire started. All noticed smoke in various locations at about the same time. An alarm was promptly given from a box across the street from the hotel. The elevator operator attempted to go to the upper floors for guests but the car stalled between the first and second floors. The hotel clerk received serious burns while attempting to arouse the guests by telephone.

The first alarm was answered by four engine companies, three ladder companies, a rescue squad and a water tower. When firemen arrived the building was surrounded by dense smoke, and flames were coming from several upper windows. Persons were already jumping from the windows but the smoke made it impossible to see where they were coming from so nets could not be used. A number of persons were taken down ladders from windows and fire escapes. The main stairway was cut off by flames early in the fire. Apparently the fire had been burning for some time before it was discovered as smoke and flames had gone up the open stair and elevator shafts and filled the upper floors. In addition to the 35 killed a number of persons were seriously injured.

Within an hour practically all floors and the roof had fallen in and less than three hours after the first alarm the removal of bodies began. The loss to building and contents was about $125,000.

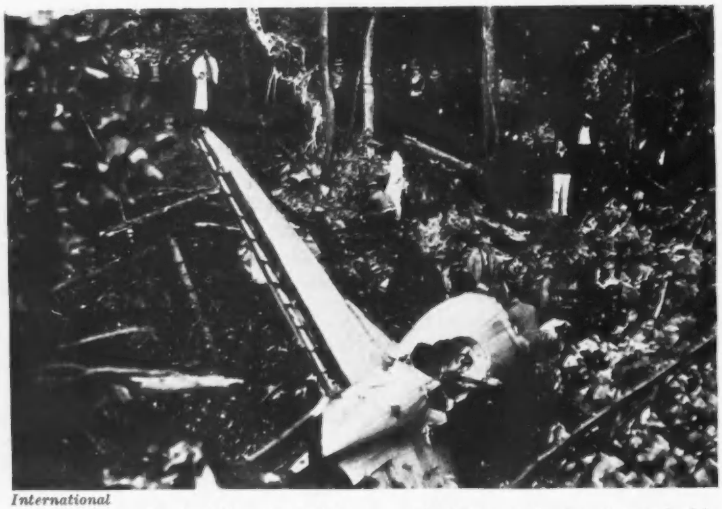


Acme

Little more than the outside walls remained of the death-trap Terminal Hotel in Atlanta, Ga., following the fire which cost 35 lives. When constructed 30 years ago the building exceeded the height limitations imposed upon such combustible structures by the local building laws.

Ohio Volunteers at Air Disaster

Independence Village Volunteers Only Department to Get Apparatus Through to Blazing Plane in Which Ten Died—Valuable Mail Saved



International

Little remained of the giant airliner in which ten died when it crashed in flames in a ravine on a farm eight miles from Cleveland, Ohio, on the night of May 24. Volunteer firemen from Independence Village were able to save much of the mail.

By Floyd P. Meek
Chief, Fire Department
Independence, Ohio

THE crash of a United Air Lines transport plane with a loss of ten lives on the night of May 24, 1938, gave our department an unexpected form of emergency duty that any volunteer department might come up against. The large plane carrying passengers, mail and express, crashed on a farm only eight miles from the Cleveland Airport. Seven passengers, a pilot, co-pilot and stewardess were burned beyond recognition. We were, however, able to save considerable valuable mail and express.

At 10:20 P.M. the large plane was sighted southeast of Cleveland over Maple Heights Village. It was thought that the pilot was dropping flares, but it proved to be part of the plane that had burned through. When over Garfield Heights Village it burst into flames and when it crossed Independence Village it was burning furiously and the motors were making a terrible noise. The plane was flying very low and hit three trees and then fell into a ravine about 25 feet deep and 60 feet wide. The plane crashed at 10:25 P.M. on a farm in Brooklyn Heights Village which is about 1½ miles west of Brecksville Road in Independence Village.

The members of our department heard our siren call or saw and heard the plane crash and reported for duty within five minutes. Seventeen of us were on the scene of the disaster not later than ten minutes after the call came in. Our station is about three miles from where the disaster happened and one mile had to be made on foot over rough plowed land, underbrush and fences. The night seemed unusually dark.

We took our No. 1 apparatus which is a 1928, 1-ton truck carrying 800 feet of 2½-inch hose. It has two 40-gallon chemical tanks arranged so that when one tank becomes exhausted we can use the second tank while refilling the exhausted one. We also carry two 2½-gallon foam, two 2½-gallon soda-acid, and one 1-quart carbon tetrachloride extinguishers.

Our truck with four or five men was led by our village police cruiser. The truck was first parked about one mile south of the plane crash and our men took the four 2½-gallon and the 1-quart extinguishers. Running all the way and occasionally relieving one another, we were almost exhausted when we arrived.

We found the plane badly wrecked and laying cross-ways of the ravine with flames shooting high into the air. We were convinced that none of the passengers could be alive after being in such an intense fire combined with the crash. Our men started looking around the ship to ascertain if any of the passengers had been thrown out of the plane when it crashed, but found none.

We used up the contents of our extinguishers to no avail. At this time we were still the only firemen on the scene. One of our engineers said, "I know of a private lane that leads almost to the scene. Do you want me to bring the apparatus in?" I detailed two men to get the truck and try to drive it in through the ruts and mud. The truck has ground grip tires with good traction tread on the rear. They ran back and found the truck blockaded by cars. Many had set brakes and locked doors and it was necessary to tow and shove these out of the way. In about 15 minutes they were at the fire and had the hose unreeled. I then played chemicals on the plane cooling it off considerably. Other members of our department found water in a small creek about 1,000 feet distant. This could be reached only by travelling over a wagon road with mud ankle deep. We refilled our two 40-gallon tanks six times which proved to be a very exhausting experience. Our apparatus was the only one to reach the scene or play on the fire.

The Cleveland Fire Department sent a rescue squad, two pumpers and a ladder truck but none of their heavy equipment could get through on account of the mud. As soon as the crew of Rescue Squad No. 2 arrived from Cleveland the work of removing the bodies started. We had to work over them with hooks, pike poles and axes, pulling away the tangled mass of hot metal. The members of the Cleveland Rescue Squad did very courageous and efficient work. As we would discover a body I would spray it with chemicals to keep the fire extinguished so the firemen could handle it. It was necessary to apply the chemicals to our hands and boots as we were standing in red hot débris.

A steady application of chemicals on the mail and express compartment is the reason why so much of these were saved. Mail and express inspectors stated that more mail and express was saved in this crash than in any other in their respective services. At their request I placed a detail of firemen around the plane to protect it from souvenir hunters. Our department was on the scene until 4:30 the following morning.

Lightning Does Strike Twice

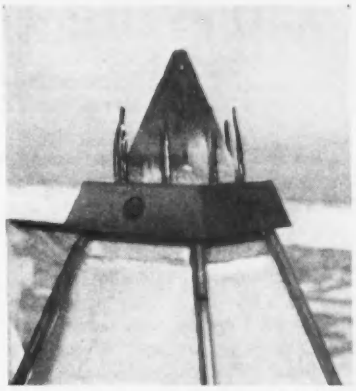
Lightning Rods Are the Best Assurance of Reasonable Protection—Should Meet N.F.P.A. Code Requirements

THERE is no foundation of fact in the old legend that lightning never strikes twice in the same place. Undoubtedly it was the great destructiveness of lightning which gave rise to the legend. In the old days the thunder bolt was believed to be the weapon of the gods, spelling final destruction for everything in its path. Now tall building are protected against lightning attacks and are struck again and again without damage. Any building may be made reasonably secure against lightning by a properly installed system of approved lightning rods.

During the thunder storm the great electrical charges in the clouds are seeking the way of least resistance to the earth. If a building has proved to be a convenient path or ground for a lightning discharge once, it may be struck again. For example, the 555 foot tall Washington Monument has been struck by lightning many times since it was completed in 1885. Following the first lightning attack a system of gold plated copper lightning rods was installed. After 50 years of hard and frequent service the lightning rods were inspected in 1935. The points of several rods had been fused by lightning strokes and others had sagged. In addition the aluminum tip of the monument itself had been roughened by lightning. New and taller copper lightning rods having platinum in the points now protect the famous shaft.

Like the Washington Monument almost any tall building acts as a giant lightning rod. Such buildings help to protect smaller nearby structures from damage. The grounded steel framework of a skyscraper conducts the lightning harmlessly to the earth. Around each tall building or other high object such as a radio tower, there is a so-called "cone of protection" within which lightning is not likely to strike lower objects. This protected area extends from the top of the tall building to a point on the ground as far away on each side as two to four times the height of the building. In other words a tower or building 500 feet high would generally give protection to objects on the ground 1000 feet or more from its base. The reason for this is that electricity including lightning, always follows the path of least resistance. On the whole it is much easier for lightning to get to ground by going down the steel frame of a building than for it to jump the same distance through the air.

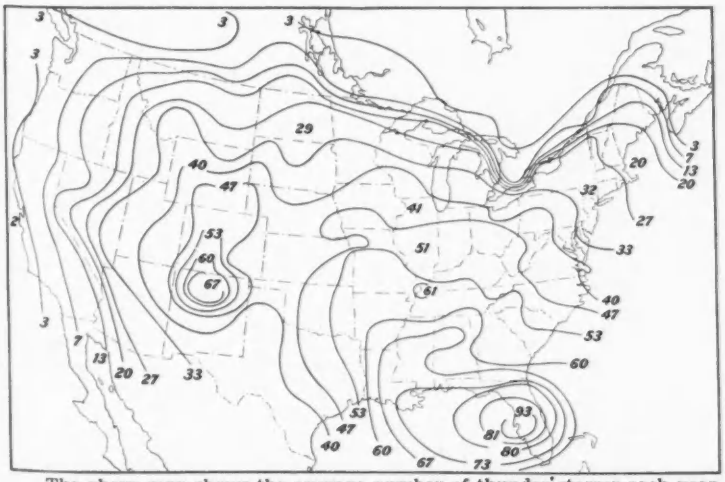
Of course most ordinary buildings, such as those found in suburban and rural areas, do not have steel frames to carry off lightning attacks. Most building materials such as wood, brick or tile resist the passage of lightning and buildings of such materials are therefore frequently damaged when struck. To be safe against lightning most ordinary buildings should be equipped with lightning rods to conduct lightning charges safely to earth.



After 50 years of hard service these lightning rods at the top of the Washington Monument required replacement.

A severe thunder storm may also interrupt telephone service and possibly alarm devices and volunteer firemen must be on their toes to prevent any loss of time in responding should lightning start a fire.

Contrary to some opinion, the primary purpose of lightning rods is not to ward off lightning attacks but to provide a safe path for lightning to follow to the ground so that it will not injure occupants or start a fire. Reliable lightning protection must include such details as adequate grounding of all lightning rods and grounding of other metal objects which might be subject to induced electrical charges. Complete details on the proper installation of lightning rods are found in the N.F.P.A. "Code for Protection Against Lightning" (price 15 cents). An improperly installed system of lightning rods gives a false sense of security and in some cases may actually invite danger. Where lightning rod installations carry the master label of Underwriters' Laboratories Inc. owners can rest assured that the installation has been properly made.



The above map shows the average number of thunder storms each year in various parts of the United States and Canada.

A Problem Question
FOR JULY

Suggested for discussion at company and department meetings this month

80

What are the chances of putting out a hay barn fire?

Watch for the answer in the next issue of VOLUNTEER FIREMEN. The answer to the problem question for June will be found on this page.

Carrying Hose With a Shoulder Load

Getting Hose Lines Up Inside Stairways Will Not Mean Back-Breaking Tugging and Hauling if Modern Methods Are Followed

DRAGGING hose by brute strength is hard and often slow work. There are, however, various methods of carrying hose that make the work of laying lines quicker and easier. One popular hose carry is the shoulder load. This load has many uses on the fire grounds. For example, shoulder loads are a convenient method of laying inside lines so that they will not snag. They are also useful in carrying extra hose to extend a line or in carrying hose to replace a burst section when a doughnut roll is not available.

A quick and simple way of getting the folds of hose on the shoulder is illustrated. Like all hose evolutions, however, each man must practice the operation a few times to get the knack of it before he can do it quickly and smoothly. After some practice a section of hose can be loaded ready to carry in a few seconds' time.

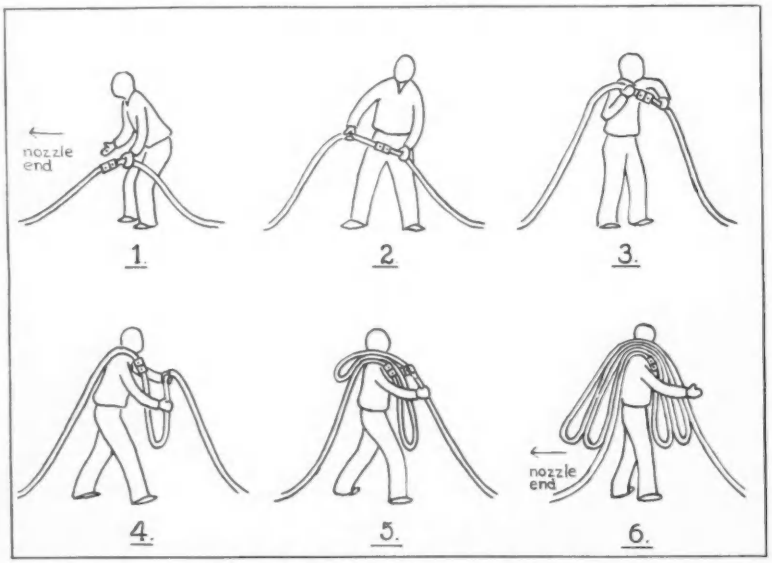
In the method here illustrated, all members of a company can load hose on their shoulders at practically the same time. Here's how it's done:

1. Each hoseman takes hose from rear of pumper. The hose is at the left side with the left hand just back of the coupling. The man moves about 25 feet from the apparatus to give other men room enough to load at the same time. 2. Keeping the left hand back of the coupling, the man turns toward pumper and places right hand on hose in front of coupling. 3. With hands in positions described, hose is placed over right shoulder with coupling in front. 4. Next the man leans and steps forward, taking more hose which is used to form a loop in front of his shoulder. The loops of hose reach to a point just above the knees. 5. Hose is fed over the shoulder forming a similar loop in back. 6. The man makes another loop front and back. This completes a load of about 35 feet of hose. When all men are similarly loaded they turn to the left and follow the pipeman to the fire. Of course the pipeman also carries a shoulder load as shown by the diagram on page 7. He starts his load by placing the nozzle in back of his shoulder instead of the coupling in front.

Acknowledgment is made of helpful suggestions in the following article made by Battalion Chief Robert B. Rogers, Seattle Fire Department; Professor Robert Criswell, University of Maryland, Fire Service Instructor; Deputy Chief Horace Hutchins, Somerville Fire Department, Massachusetts Fire Department Instructors' Association; and Chief J. Ray Pence, Fire Department, Stillwater, Oklahoma, Secretary, International Association of Fire Department Instructors.

In addition to the above there are several other common methods of making a shoulder load. Some departments go to the trouble of stretching the needed hose on the ground and folding it into loops before putting it on the shoulder. This operation involves the lifting of a considerable weight of hose. Battalion Chief Robert B. Rogers of the Seattle, Washington, Fire Department recommends the following method of making a shoulder load if the hose is loaded on the apparatus accordion style. The men step up to the rear of the truck in turn and the driver pulls out the folds of hose from the hose bed directly on to the hoseman's shoulders.

Chief Rogers states: "It has been our practice in the Northwest to gradually eliminate putting any hose on the ground during hose operations. In actual fire service, we found that there was always considerable confusion during hose operations when we first removed the hose from the carrier, placed it on the ground and then folded it into shoulder loads from the ground. No amount of experience or training seemed to eliminate this condition."

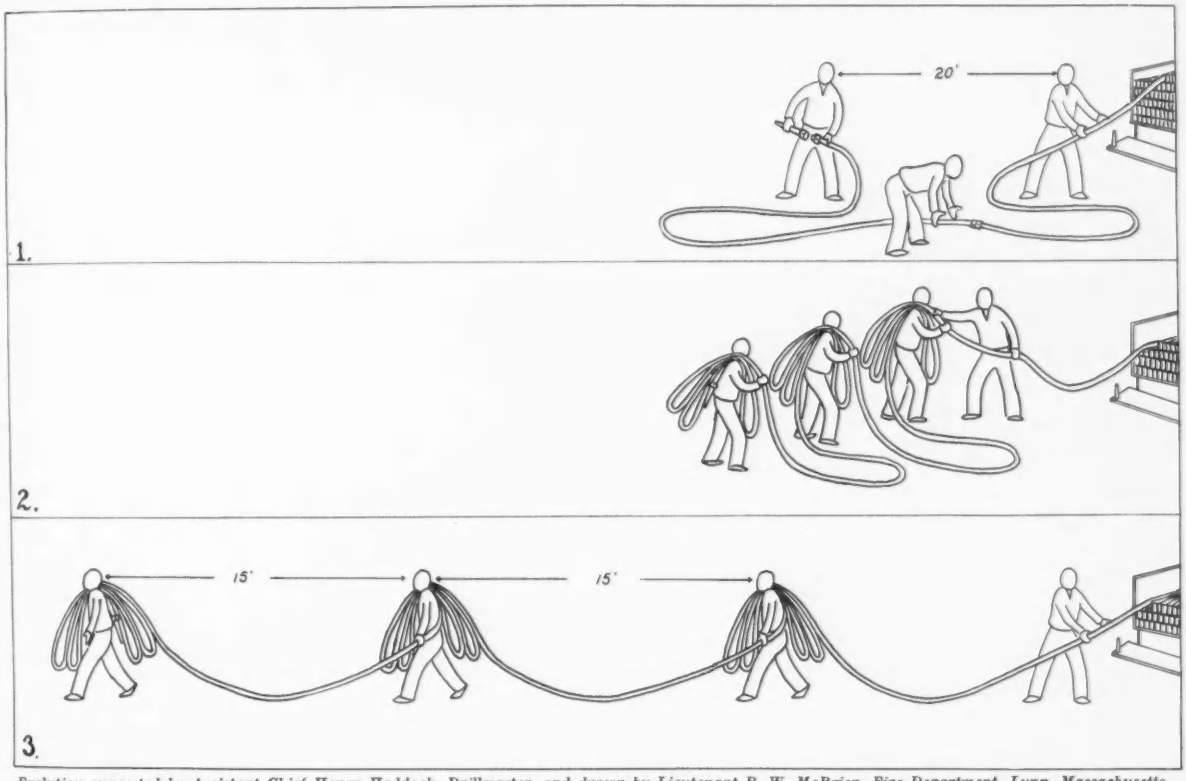


Making a shoulder hose load is easy if done in the following steps. 1. Man walks away from the apparatus, following pipeman, carrying hose at coupling with left hand. 2. Swings around toward apparatus lifting hose with both hands. 3. Slips hose on left shoulder with coupling in front. 4. Steps forward and picks up loop of hose forming a fold in front of shoulder. 5. Feeds hose over shoulder forming a fold in back. 6. Another fold formed front and back completes the load. The man is ready to turn and follow the pipeman to the fire.

Using Shoulder Hose Carry for an Inside Stretch

MANY a fireman takes an unnecessary "licking" in trying to stretch a line up a stairway through smoke because his company does not use a modern method of running lines inside of buildings. Assume that a fire is in progress on the third or fourth floor of a building. Before ventilation has been effected a company is ordered to take a line up the stairway to the seat of the fire. The old method was to drag the hose by sheer force up through the billowing smoke that inevitably backs down the stairway. When hosemen reached the top they were in poor condition to fight fire. If as frequently happens, two companies are struggling shorthanded up the same stairway, progress is likely to be so difficult that some impatient officer may call for water before the lines reach their objectives, making the lines almost impossible to move.

Shoulder Hose Carry for an Inside Stretch



Evolution suggested by Assistant Chief Henry Haddock, Drillmaster, and drawn by Lieutenant R. W. McBrien, Fire Department, Lynn, Massachusetts.

1. Driver feeds line from rear of truck. Nozzleman steps back 20 feet and attaches nozzle. Other hoseman following in turn take couplings as they are pulled from truck. 2. All men line up at the left of the nozzleman and feed 35 feet of hose on their right shoulders. The last man takes 50 feet of hose being assisted by the driver. All men load at the same time. 3. When all are loaded they turn to the left and proceed to the fire walking 15 feet apart.

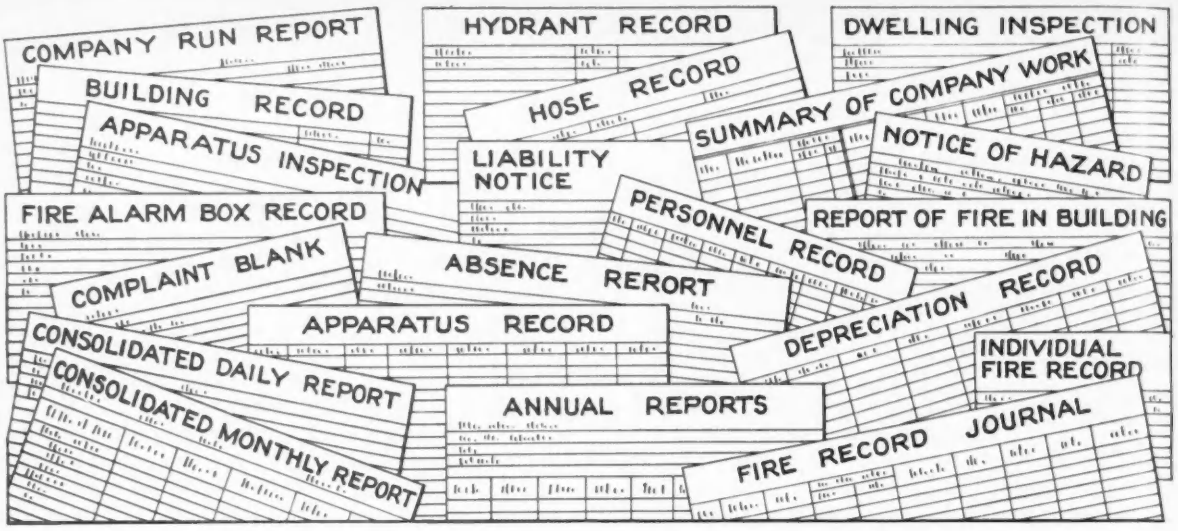
Such conditions do not prevail where fire departments are trained in modern methods of stretching lines such as the shoulder load. Properly done this work can be made almost as easy as walking upstairs. One of the most successful methods is illustrated above. Before going into the building each hoseman loads a section of hose on his right shoulder as shown on the preceding page. This only requires a few seconds and then the line may be laid as fast as the men can walk. They walk 12 to 15 feet apart, feeding the line off their shoulders as they proceed up the stairway. The last man in the line unloads first, and the nozzleman unloads last.

The shoulder hose carry is performed as follows: The nozzleman steps back about 20 feet from the apparatus and attaches the nozzle if it is not carried attached to the line. Other hosemen each take a coupling as the hose is pulled from the truck by the driver. All men line up at the left of the nozzleman and feed 35 feet of hose on their right shoulders (see detailed sketches of this method, page 6). Each loop of hose reaches two or three feet from the ground. When all are ready they turn to the left and proceed to the fire 12 to 15 feet apart, stretching hose from the starting point. After unloading, the men behind the nozzleman follow up, clearing kinks in the hose and relieve or assist the nozzleman who has carried the greatest load.

This evolution shows the value of teamwork. After loading, the crew can walk the line to the point of operation without becoming winded in less time than is required by the old tug and haul method. The shoulder carry may be used regardless of whether hose is loaded on the apparatus to lead off with the male or female coupling. When leading off with the female coupling, however, double couplings must be used when attaching the nozzle and connecting to a pumper or hydrant.

When stretching inside lines many departments always insist upon the use of a hose clamp to prevent charging of the line before the crew is ready. When a line is charged too soon, men may be injured and the hose may be kinked or made practically immovable. The hose clamp is usually placed on the line near the rear of the apparatus after the hose which is to be stretched by hand has been removed from the hose body.

The shoulder hose carry may sometimes be effectively used for laying outside lines as for example, when it is necessary to cross railroad tracks, plowed fields or other places where it is difficult to drag hose. It would not be used in carrying lines up ladders or for short outside lines which are commonly stretched straightaway. (See description in June 1938 issue of VOLUNTEER FIREMEN.) The man in charge of the hose crew should indicate when the shoulder hose carry is to be used at a fire.



"Let's Look at the Records"

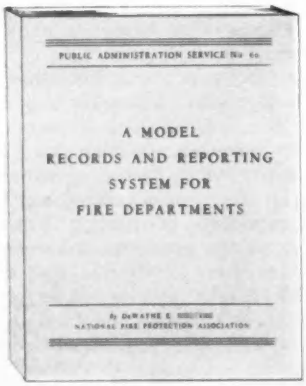
An Up-to-Date Fire Department Keeps a Good Record of All Operations—Here's a Manual on the Subject

By DeWayne E. Nolting

NOTHING will clinch an argument or swing a request for needed fire department funds as surely as facts taken from the records. When the mayor, town council, or other authority asks "why this?" or "why that?", the chief gets a lot of satisfaction out of being able to say "let's look at the records". Every fire chief that realizes the importance of his job knows how necessary it is to keep complete records on the work and accomplishments of his department.

To assist fire departments of all sizes in modernizing their records systems and reporting procedures, the manual "A Model Records and Reporting System for Fire Departments" has just been published. Illustrated in this manual are 27 record and report forms which experience indicates are necessary for effective operation of a fire department. The titles of most of these forms are indicated above. Not all of these forms are required in the smaller volunteer fire departments, but most of the information called for should at least be kept on the books of the smallest company or department so that the fire chief and the chief executive of the city or town will know at any moment just what work has been done and where and why the fire losses are occurring.

One important report is the Company Run Report which should be filled out by the officer in charge each time his company responds to an alarm. This form presents a complete history of the alarm; the class of fire; description of the building involved; the number and kind of extinguishers, hose, and other equipment used; the names of company members who responded; and a detailed account of the work the company did at the fire. A card record for recording information on each manufacturing and mercantile building such as the hazardous processes involved, the private fire protection facilities, and records of inspections made is recommended. The manual contains detailed suggestions on how to inspect these buildings and also dwellings. Another important form is the Consolidated Monthly Report which gives a complete summary of the fire experience and work of the entire department for the past month. In departments of less than three companies this information may be compiled once a year instead of monthly. Complete instructions for preparing annual reports of small volunteer departments as well as large paid fire departments are included.



In all, 24 forms are illustrated in full size and explained in the manual. They cover every phase of fire department activity such as inspection and investigation work, fire alarm records, personnel records, and public relations.

This manual is the result of requests for such information from many fire chiefs. Eleven fire department officers and fire protection engineers from all over the country have assisted the author in preparing the material. Fire departments are urged to make use of any part of the recommendations. Any fire chief may be able to improve his records procedure and his methods of running the fire department by studying this manual which is based on best modern practices.

Copies of the book are available from the National Fire Protection Association for two dollars each. Many of the forms reproduced in the book are available in quantities at prices generally below the cost of having them printed locally. Send for a free circular.

● Unfortunately, the Fire Demon is an ill-mannered fellow who doesn't send out invitations like the above. His parties are all surprise parties . . . and often, by the time the news gets to the fire department, the "festivities" are out of hand . . . ¶ No one can predict the time or place that fire will strike, but A.D.T. does the next best thing—provides the assurance that when fire does break out, it will be detected *automatically* when it starts, and the fire department *automatically* summoned during those first few precious moments. ¶ A.D.T. provides two automatic fire protection services: for sprinklered properties, Waterflow Alarm Service; and for unsprinklered properties, Aero Automatic Fire Alarm. Adoption of A.D.T. Automatic Fire Protection Systems often results in substantial savings in protection overhead. Write for descriptive booklets.

A.D.T. AUTOMATIC FIRE PROTECTION

Controlled Companies of **AMERICAN DISTRICT TELEGRAPH CO.** *155 Sixth Avenue, New York, N.Y.*

CENTRAL STATION OFFICES IN ALL PRINCIPAL CITIES OF THE UNITED STATES

A·D·T

Electric Protection Services
AGAINST FIRE · BURGLARY · HOLDUP
A NATION-WIDE ORGANIZATION

NEW CATALOGUES

This department is for the convenience of readers who wish to be advised of new products or services in the fire field. When writing for catalogues please mention VOLUNTEER FIREMEN.

American District Telegraph Co., 155 Sixth Ave., New York City. Descriptive booklets describing electric protection services.

Davis Emergency Equipment Co., Inc., 55 Van Dam St., New York City. Catalogue 4, 24 pp., describing gas protection equipment including gas masks, air line masks, gas indicators, etc.

The Fog Nozzle Co., 1520 East Slauson Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. Four page, two color leaflet describing "Griswold Fognozl."

Federal Electric Co., 8717 South State St., Chicago, Ill. Bulletin No. 55. Details of Federal sirens.

The Fyr-Fyter Co., Dayton, Ohio. Four-page illustrated leaflet, describing 5-gallon farm fire extinguisher (new shape hand pump type).

Gamewell Co., Newton Upper Falls, Mass. Illustrated bulletin entitled, "Delayed Alarms", showing serious fires which may result from delays in sending alarms.

D. B. Smith & Co., 416 Main St., Utica, N. Y. Catalogue describing Indian Fire Pumps.

Wilson Products, Inc., Reading, Pa. Thirty-four page illustrated catalogue, showing complete line of eye, nose, throat and lung protectors.

Membership Plan

VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S SECTION
NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

INDIVIDUAL membership in the National Fire Protection Association costs $10 per year. The membership plan for the Volunteer Firemen's Section is designed to give each fire company the advantages of N.F.P.A. membership. The fire company, as a member, receives at its headquarters a complete set of all regular N.F.P.A. literature, including the *Quarterly* magazine, as issued. In addition, as a special service to the Volunteer Firemen's Section, each fire company holding N.F.P.A. membership is entitled to have copies of the magazine VOLUNTEER FIREMEN sent to the home addresses of 20 firemen each month. If more than 20 firemen want to receive the magazine, an additional 50 cents should be sent in with the membership fee for each fireman in excess of 20 enrolled.

Because of the large amount of material mailed to members, not less than $10 can be accepted from any company.

Bring Home $10.00 Easy Money

Pyrene Prize Letter Contest Pays for Stories of Good Work Done by Firemen With Extinguishers

THE widespread usefulness of approved fire extinguishers is well shown by the Pyrene Prize Letter Contest. You may know of a case where an extinguisher saved a life or made a good stop; just tell the facts your own way. Having won a previous prize does not bar you from making another entry. The contest is sponsored jointly by the Pyrene Manufacturing Company of Newark, N. J., and VOLUNTEER FIREMEN.

FIRST PRIZE — $10.00

LEROY LEE

Fire Department, Atoka, Okla.

Extinguisher Got There!

"A few months ago our fire company answered an alarm given by an excited negro. He only said, 'My house is on fire out in the south part of town', and hung up before we could find out where in the south part the fire was. Nevertheless we tore out with both trucks' sirens screaming. After spending enough time for a house to burn down we spotted the house across the railroad tracks. There was no crossing close by so we had to go back six blocks to get across. In the meantime one of our volunteer firemen had located the fire. He always carries a 1-quart carbon tetrachloride extinguisher in his car. The fire was under big headway when he arrived but he cut a hole in the roof and turned his extinguisher on the flame. Before we arrived he had put out the fire with the 1-quart extinguisher. The loss was very small but without the extinguisher would have been large as there were no water mains near the fire."

SECOND PRIZE — $3.00

H. M. CAWLEY

Fire Department, Denver, Colo.

Firemen Save Own Pumper

"On the afternoon of May 27, 1938, during a drill tower training session in which three fire companies were taking part, a pumper stood idle at the side of the street for 20 minutes. During this time gasoline had evidently been running under the apparatus and to the curb from a leaky carburetor.

"Upon the signal from the drillmaster the driver attempted to start the motor. Upon doing this a backfire took place which ignited the spilled gasoline. The entire street underneath and to the curb side of the engine appeared to burst into flame. The fire burned very rapidly extending to the motor and flooded carburetor. The officer of the engine company dismounted immediately taking from the side of the apparatus a 1-quart carbon tetrachloride extinguisher. This he used to attack the fire in and around the motor. A second extinguisher, a 2½-gallon foam type was secured from a nearby ladder truck. This was operated on the fire beneath the apparatus and on the street. In almost unbelievable time the fire was extinguished with a minimum of damage to the fire engine."

THIRD PRIZE — $2.00

W. H. KELLY, *Lieutenant*,

Fire Department, Montgomery, Ala.

Foam Saved the Day!

"Being a stickler for having my fishing equipment just right I was straightening and drying a bamboo fishing pole with a blow torch in our repair shop. Unmindful that the mechanic had left an open wash pan of gasoline in which he had been washing parts on the work bench, I carelessly wiped the blow torch over the pan of gasoline and immediately had a nice blaze. Grabbing a piece of canvas nearby I smothered all but one corner of the fire. However, in trying to pull the canvas over this one corner I upset the pan of gasoline and scattered the fire into a pile of used parts under the work bench. With two automobiles and all the shop equipment at stake and a greasy work bench to feed the flames, I would have had a nasty fire but a brother fireman came running with a 2½-gallon foam extinguisher and saved the day."

CONTEST RULES

1. Contestants in the Pyrene Prize Letter Contest must be members of their local fire department.

2. Letters are to describe actual experiences where an approved fire extinguisher of any make has saved lives or property.

3. Trade names may be used but will be deleted in publication. Publishers reserve the right to edit winning letters to permit publication.

4. Each contestant automatically vouches for the truth of the facts presented from his own or others' experience.

5. Only one letter may be submitted each month.

6. Letters must be legibly written in ink or typewritten on white paper, one side only. Preference will be given to letters not over 250 words in length.

7. Letters received after the 8th of the month will be judged in following month's competition.

8. Monthly prizes in cash will be: 1st, $10.00; 2nd, $3.00; and 3rd, $2.00.

9. Address contest letters to Pyrene Prize Letter Contest, National Fire Protection Association, 60 Batterymarch St., Boston, Mass.

1 GALLON—DUPLEX PUMP

"CAPTAIN"-FYR-FYTER

AN IDEAL EXTINGUISHER FOR VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS

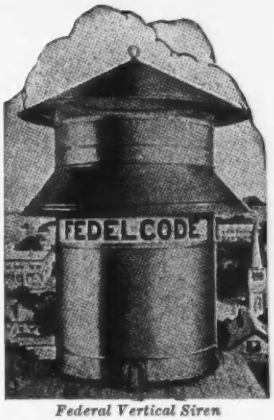
Here is the equivalent of four 1-quart extinguishers built into one thus making this large quantity of vaporizing liquid available without running for another extinguisher when more than the average size blaze is encountered. This is but one of the complete line of Fyr-Fyter Extinguishers each of which have exclusive merits which stamp them as superior.

DEALERS WANTED

If you are interested in adding to your income by spare time work or in building a permanent business for yourself without investment in stock, fixtures, etc., write for our new Dealer's Plan to

FYR-FYTER COMPANY
Dept. 20-31 DAYTON, OHIO

THE FEDERAL VERTICAL SIRENS



Federal Vertical Siren

Protect Property — Save Lives

Be sure to *Specify* a new Federal Vertical Siren for your community. In sizes to meet varying requirements. Distributes sound in all directions—Rugged in construction—Entirely weatherproof — Equipped with special high speed ball-bearing motor.

Write for bulletin No. 55

FEDERAL ELECTRIC CO.
8717 SOUTH STATE ST., CHICAGO, ILL.

Chief A. E. Schmuki

VOLUNTEER FIRE CHIEF HIGHLY PRAISES JOB DONE BY

INDIAN FIRE PUMPS

Charleston, Arkansas

D. B. Smith & Co.,
Utica, N. Y.

Dear Sirs:—Nothing but INDIAN FIRE PUMPS for me from now on. They are far superior to any other hand pump. An alarm came in which was a roof fire well under way and a high wind blowing. Two men with the INDIAN FIRE PUMPS on their backs climbed the ladder to the roof and went into action and did they do the work! I've been on the volunteer department for twelve years, and never have had results like this. We now have a 1½ ton truck which has several INDIAN FIRE PUMPS on it. INDIAN FIRE PUMPS are worth their weight in gold.

Yours very truly,
ALFRED E. SCHMUKI, Fire Chief.

Stop THOSE SUMMER FIRES with INDIAN FIRE PUMPS!

The summer—with its grass, rubbish and awning fires, is here. Are you fully prepared to fight these nuisances? Have you an adequate supply of strong, always reliable INDIAN FIRE PUMPS on hand? If you have there's nothing to worry about—but if not, NOW is the time to investigate these 5 gallon extinguishers that use only clear water and are so popular with rural and city departments everywhere.

Send for our new catalog.

D. B. SMITH & CO.
416 MAIN STREET UTICA, N. Y.

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360 pages, 6 x 9 in.
$1.50 each postpaid

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- Freeing Tanks of Flammable Vapors
- Tank Truck Ordinance
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- Gasoline and Kerosene on the Farm
- Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code (Propane and Butane)
- Compressed Gas Systems
- Liquefied Petroleum Gas Tank Trucks
- Motor Craft, Pleasure and Commercial
- Airplane Fueling Operations
- Dry Cleaning and Dry Dyeing
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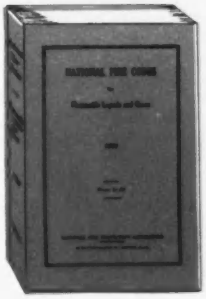
- City Gas, Installation, Piping, Fittings
- Odorization of Gas
- Acetylene for Lighting, Heating and Cooking
- Gas Systems for Welding and Cutting
- Anaesthetic Gases and Oxygen in Hospitals
- Refrigeration Safety Code
- Fire Hazard Properties of Flammable Liquids, Gases and Volatile Solids



The Most Important Fire Book That Will Be Published This Year

National Fire Codes

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The public demands expert advice, not guesses, on matters of fire safety. The answers to such problems are given in this authoritative volume. Not one man's opinion or experience, but the considered judgment of experts in their several fields, these recommendations may be quoted as official. In all, the volume includes 36 important sets of regulations covering the entire range of hazards from flammable liquids and gases.

Fires in flammable liquids and gases are tougher and more dangerous than the ordinary run of alarms answered. These codes show primarily how the fires may be prevented. If you know the safeguards for each of these hazards, it will also enable you to promptly and safely handle these fires when they come along.

NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
INTERNATIONAL
60 Batterymarch St., Boston, Mass.

Not more than 500 feet to the nearest box in closely-built residential districts . . . convenient to every group of buildings, manufacturing establishments, and institutions in sparsely-built districts . . . in congested high-value districts—"A Box a Block"—with special attention to Life Hazards . . . a safe rule to follow.

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Three-Fold Fire Alarm Box

A large fire loss almost invariably reflects a delayed alarm. . . . Fire out of control destroys property and menaces or destroys human life until extinguished. . . . Remember — your great investment in fire fighting equipment and organization is valueless until the *alarm is given!*

Time Lost in announcing fire is reflected in scenes as above . . . and the community *Loses*. . . .

Time Saved while fires are in their incipiency is reflected in small fire losses and greater security . . . and the community *Profits*.

Gamewell Fire Alarm Boxes properly distributed relative to values and fire hazards provide the swiftest and most reliable method of giving alarms. . . . They protect property, business, and the home by saving *Time*.

THE GAMEWELL COMPANY

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